

Library

B O R O U G H O F D R O I T W I C H

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

and of the

B O R O U G H S U R V E Y O R



S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R

for the year

1 9 5 3

MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1953/54.

His Worship the Mayor : Alderman Mrs. J.M. Addenbrooke.

Deputy Mayor : Councillor G. Davies.

Aldermen : A. Blake
G. Harrison
E. S. Jones

Councillors : W. J. O. Bartlett
A. G. I. Cardno
H. L. Chatterley
R. D. N. Fabricius
Mrs. E. L. Hatchett
J. L. Hatchett
B. Inett
R. Jolliffe
J. A. Pittaway
W. G. Taylor

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health : Margaret C. Fell, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
D.C.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : Graham L. Robinson, M.I.Mun.E.,
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
(Certificated Meat and
Food Inspector)

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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Town Hall,
Droitwich.

August 1954.

To : The Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Droitwich
Borough Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual
Report on the health of the Borough for the year ended 31st
December 1953.

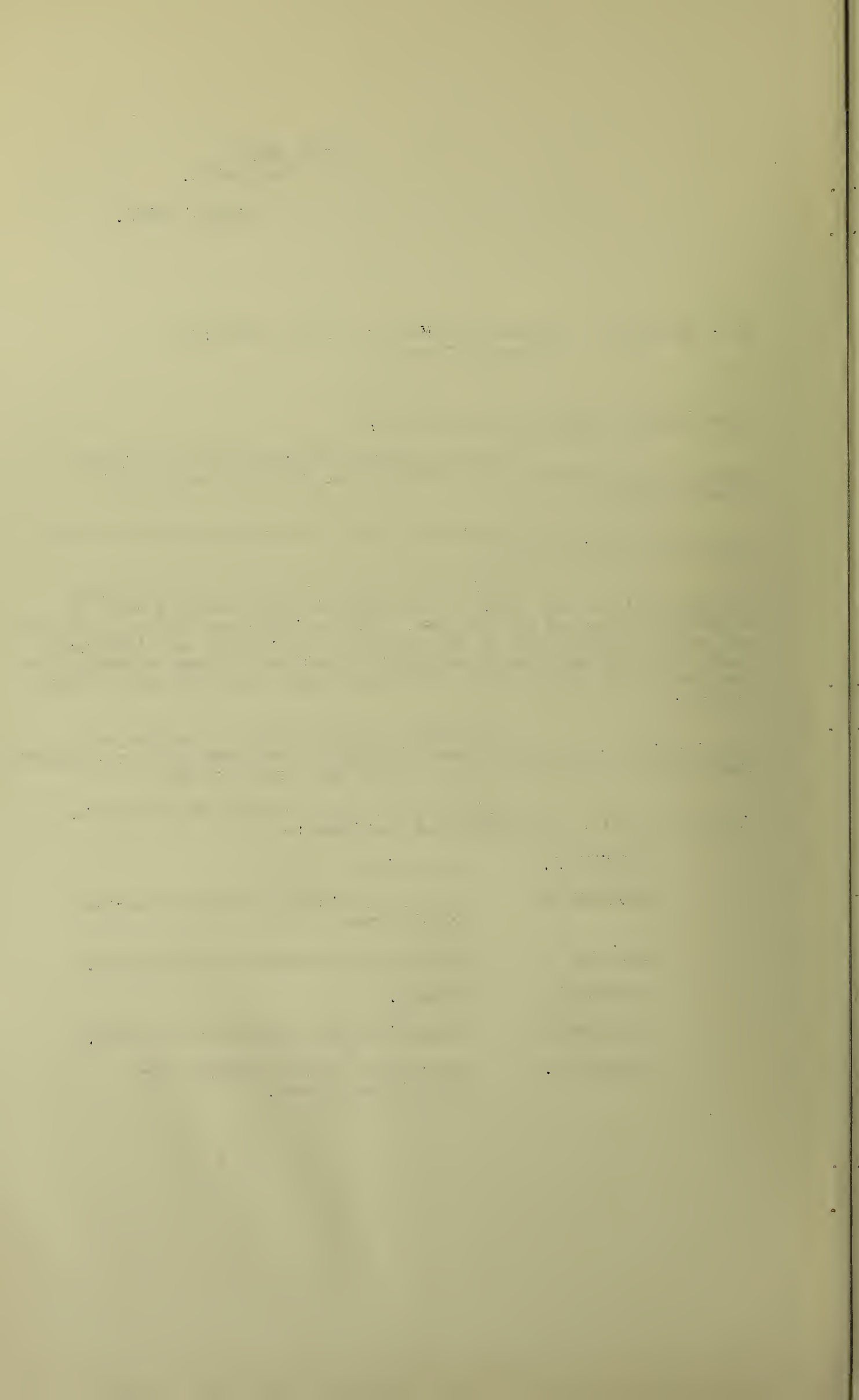
During the year the general health of the
population remained good.

Again, the number of cases of infectious
disease notified was low. It is several years since a case of
diphtheria occurred in the town. This satisfactory state of affairs
can only be maintained if the majority of children are immunised
against the disease and parents must continue to take advantage of
the facilities offered for protecting their children against this
disease.

All infants should receive a course of
immunisation before they reach the age of one year and a re-inforcing
dose at the age of four years before they enter school.

Following the usual custom the report is
divided into the undermentioned Sections :-

- | | |
|------------|---|
| SECTION A. | Statistics. |
| SECTION B. | General provision of Health Services
for the area. |
| SECTION C. | Sanitary circumstances of the area. |
| SECTION D. | Housing. |
| SECTION E. | Inspection and Supervision of Food. |
| SECTION F. | Prevalence of and control over
Infectious Disease. |



SECTION "A" - STATISTICS.

Area 1735 acres.

Registrar-General's estimate
of resident population, mid-1953. 6632

Number of inhabited houses 1953
(according to Rate Books). 1763

Rateable Value. £45,779

Sum represented by a Penny Rate. £175

The following are extracts from the vital statistics
for the year :-

Live Births.

				<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	...	...	...	48	55	103
Illegitimate	...	...	...	5	2	7

Birth Rate per 1,000 of
resident population ... 16.59

Birth Rate - England and Wales 15.5

Still Births.

Legitimate	...	...	...	3	1	4
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000
of population ... 0.603

Still Birth Rate per 1,000
England and Wales 0.35

Deaths.

Analysis of Deaths	46	35	81
--------------------	-----	-----	----	----	----

Death Rate per 1,000
estimated population ... 12.21

Death Rate - England and Wales 11.4

Deaths from PUERPERAL CAUSES - NIL

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

Legitimate	...	...	...	2	-	2
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	-	1

Infantile Mortality Rate
for the year ... 27.27

Infantile Mortality Rate -
England and Wales ... 26.8

1780

1780

THE HISTORY OF THE
CITY OF BOSTON

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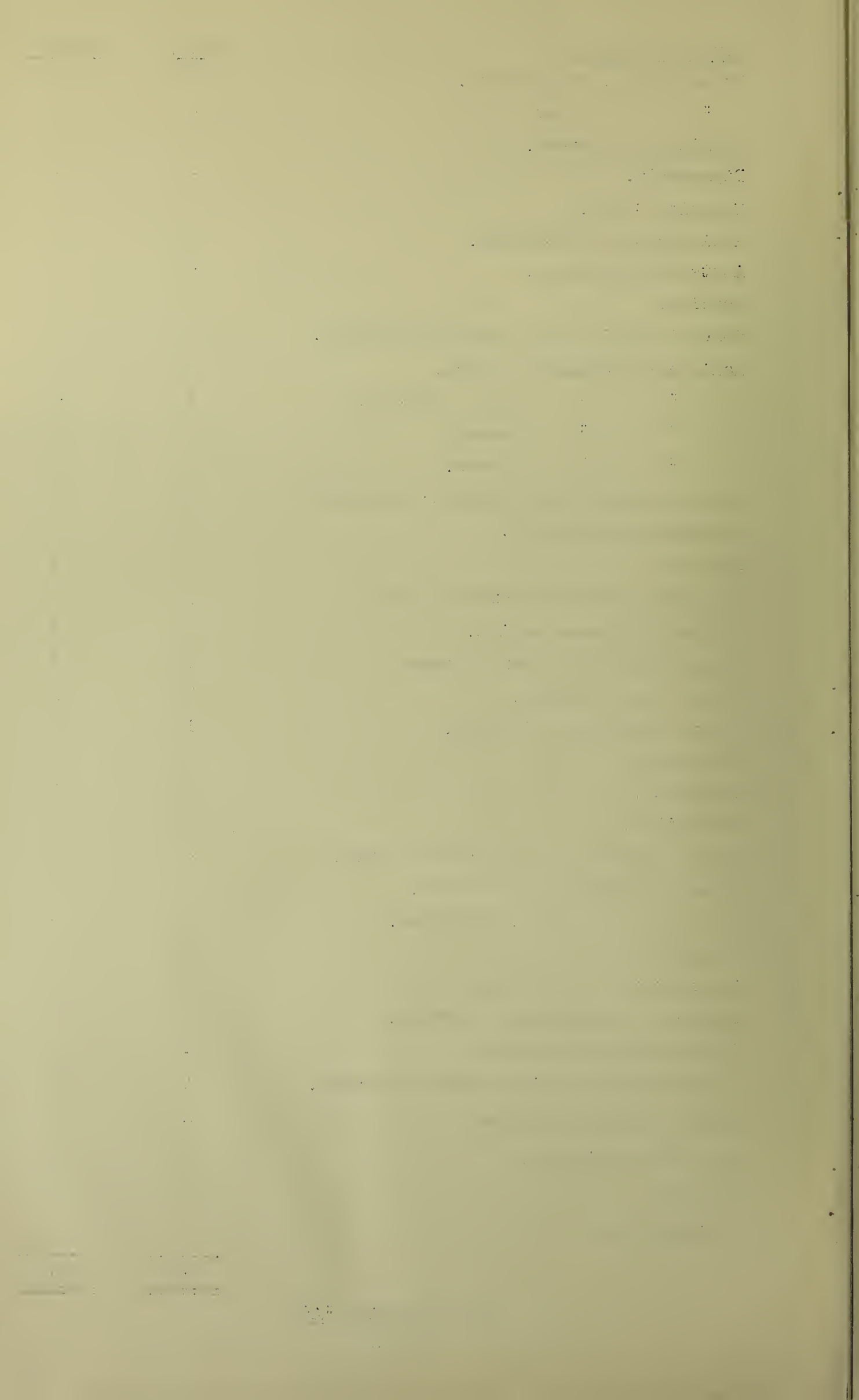
THE HISTORY OF THE
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CITY OF BOSTON

<u>Causes of Death.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	2
" other.	-	-
Syphilitic diseases.	-	-
Diphtheria.	-	-
Whooping Cough.	-	-
Meningococcal Infections.	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis.	-	-
Measles.	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases.	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	2	-
" " lung, bronchus.	2	-
" " breast.	-	2
" " uterus.	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	5	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	1	-
Diabetes.	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	7	7
Coronary disease, angina.	9	3
Hypertension with heart disease.	2	2
Other heart diseases.	3	7
Other circulatory diseases.	1	2
Influenza.	1	1
Pneumonia.	3	1
Bronchitis.	2	1
Other diseases of respiratory system.	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	-
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea.	1	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis.	1	-
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-
Congenital malformations.	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents.	-	-
All other accidents.	-	1
Suicide.	1	-
Homicide etc.	-	-
	<u>46</u>	<u>35</u>

End of Section "A"



SECTION "B" - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH
SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

I. The following services are provided by the County Council :-

(a) Ambulance Service.

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. Other Ambulance Stations are situated at Bromsgrove and Kidderminster.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is stationed in Droitwich. This vehicle was renewed during the year and it is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospitals.

(b) Home Help Service.

This service is administered by the Womens Voluntary Services on behalf of the County Council. The service provides domestic help in cases of illness and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are one full-time and six part-time Home Helps working in the Borough.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service :-

17	Maternity cases
5	Tuberculosis "
5	Chronic sick "
29	Other "

(c) Home Nursing Service.

Two District Nurse-Midwives work in the Borough. They attend midwifery cases and cases of general illness.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children.

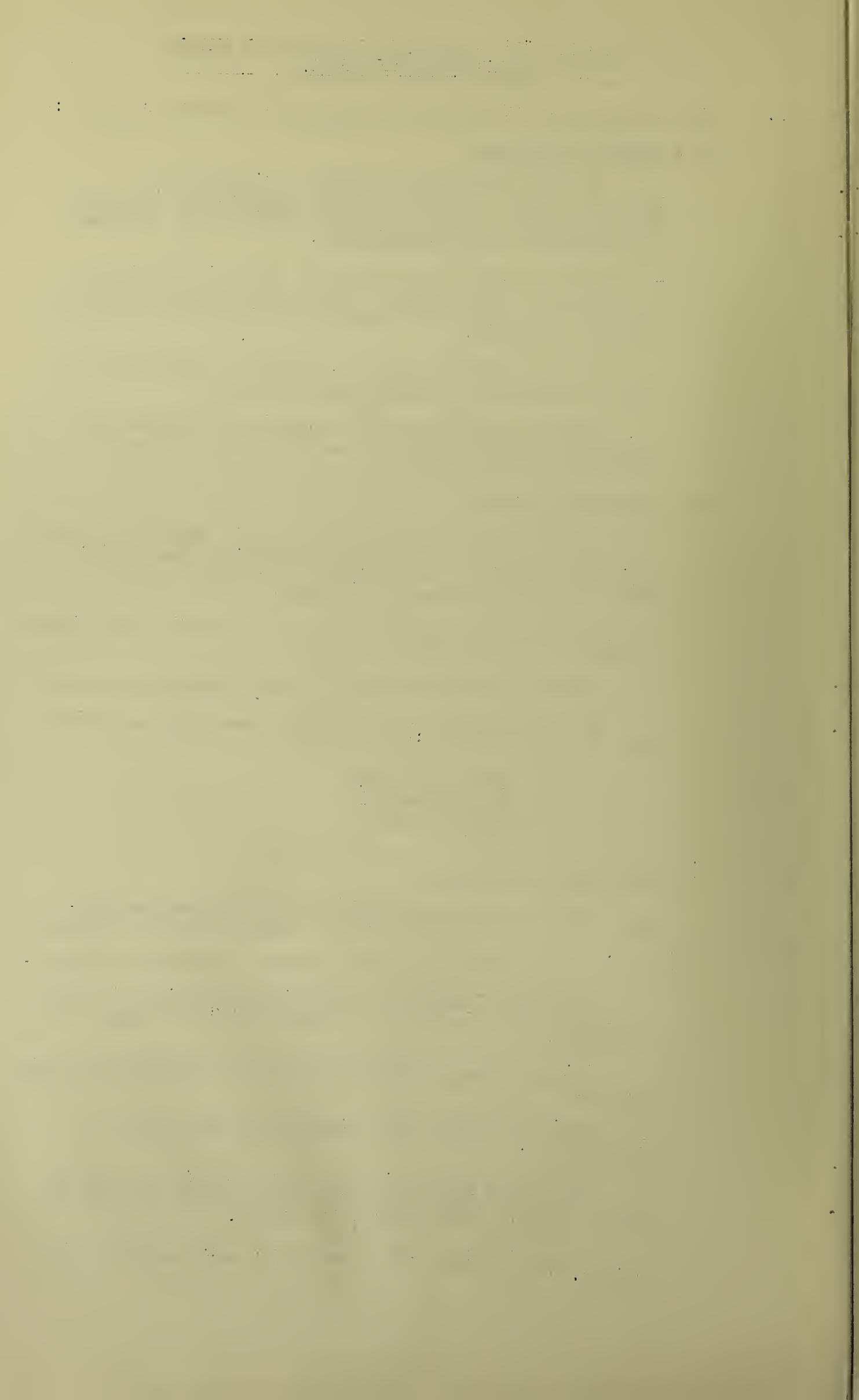
The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

Children can be immunised against Diphtheria at this Clinic.

During the year 1876 attendances were made at this Clinic.

The County Council's ante-natal clinic is held on the second and fourth Wednesday mornings in each month at the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year 151 attendances were made at this Clinic.



(e) Diphtheria Immunisation and Smallpox Vaccination.

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out, free of charge, by the patient's own doctor, or at one of the County Council's Clinics.

The following inoculations were done during 1953 :-

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year	91
--	------	------	----

Number of children who received re-inforcing doses during the year			98
--	--	--	----

Vaccination.

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year			70
--	--	--	----

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year		16
--	------	--	----

II. Hospitals.

The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Birmingham.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester.

Maternity cases, which cannot be confined at home, are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove, Evesham and Worcester.

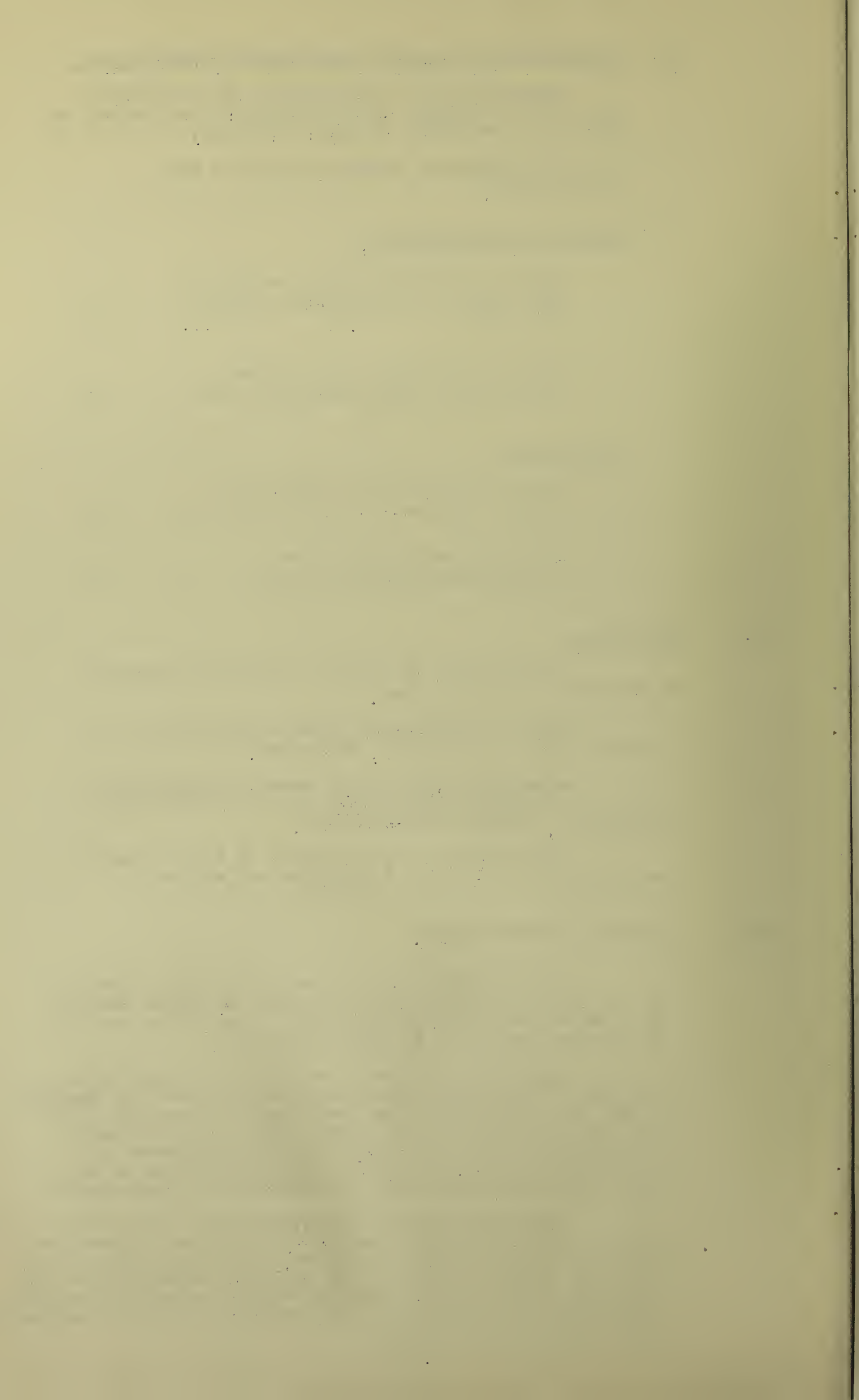
Sanatoria for the treatment of Tuberculosis are situated at Malvern, Knightwick and Worcester.

III. Mortuary Accommodation.

The building which has been used as a Mortuary in the town for many years is situated in Friar Street. It is of wooden and corrugated iron construction and it is in close proximity to dwelling houses.

This Mortuary serves the Borough of Droitwich and part of the rural districts which surround the Borough. In the past the Mortuary has been used infrequently and only for the reception of bodies. There is no suitable accommodation in the building for the performance of post-mortem examinations. The existing building is of a type which would not justify expenditure on improvements.

Complaints about the Mortuary have been received from the Coroner for the district, from local doctors and from relatives of deceased persons. It appears, therefore, that some action to improve the Mortuary accommodation has become necessary and the Borough Council recently appointed a Sub-Committee to consider the provision of better Mortuary accommodation for the town.



IV. Droitwich Canal.

The Council are still considering schemes for improvement of that part of the canal situated within the town.

National Assistance Act 1948 - Section 47 - and Amendment Act 1951.

These sections place on district Medical Officers of Health the responsibility of obtaining compulsory powers for the removal to institutions of people who are in need of care and attention.

The cases are most frequently brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health by the Welfare Officers of the County Council or by private doctors.

No action was taken by the Council under these sections during the year, although several cases were dealt with by informal action.

End of Section "B"

1872

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1872

SECTION "C" - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

The water supply to the Borough, purchased in bulk from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company, continued to be adequate in both quantity and quality throughout the year. Samples were taken for analysis and gave satisfactory results. A copy of the County Analyst's report on a sample of this water is given below.

The majority of dwelling houses in the town have a water supply direct from the public mains, with the exception of outlying farms and cottages, which have a supply from wells.

Number of Standpipes in the area.	12
" " Wells " " "	16

REPORT OF COUNTY ANALYST ON SAMPLE OF TOWN WATER.

Physical characters.	Clear.
Odour.	None.
Deposit.	None.

Chemical Examination. (Results expressed in parts per 100,000)

Solids in suspension (Dried at 100° C)	None
" " solution (Dried at 180° C)	28
" " " (After ignition)	26
Chlorides calculated as common salt	3.4
Hardness, permanent	6
" temporary	12
" total	18
Free and Saline Ammonia	.0006
Albuminoid Ammonia	.0002
Nitric Nitrogen (Nitrates)	.77
Nitrous Nitrogen (Nitrites)	NIL
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C (N/80 Permanganate)	.013
Toxic metals	NONE DETECTED
Residual chlorine on receipt	NONE

Note. To convert the above parts per 100,000 to grains per gallon, multiply by 0.7

OPINION.

The chemical condition of the sample is satisfactory.

DATE. 5th August, 1953. (Signed) - M.M.Love,
County Analyst.

THE JOURNAL OF THE

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.

VOLUME 10, NUMBER 1, JANUARY 1917

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BY DR. J. H. KELLOGG

THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS

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THE TREATMENT OF TUBERCULOSIS

BY DR. J. H. KELLOGG

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Number of colonies developing upon Agar

- | | | |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------|
| (a) | In two days at 37° C | NIL per 100 ml. |
| (b) | Faecal Coli | NIL per cent. |

OPINION.

The sample is fit for drinking.

(Signed) R.J.HENDERSON, M.B., Ch.B.

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

No changes were made in these services during the year. The Sewage Disposal Works situated in Hampton Road were under the supervision of the Borough Surveyor. Samples of effluent taken by the Surveyor fluctuated during the year. In some instances the standard of the effluent fell below that laid down by the Royal Commission, and with increase in population it is considered that these Sewage Disposal Works are becoming overloaded.

3. Smoke Abatement.

No action was taken in this matter during the year.

4. Swimming Baths.

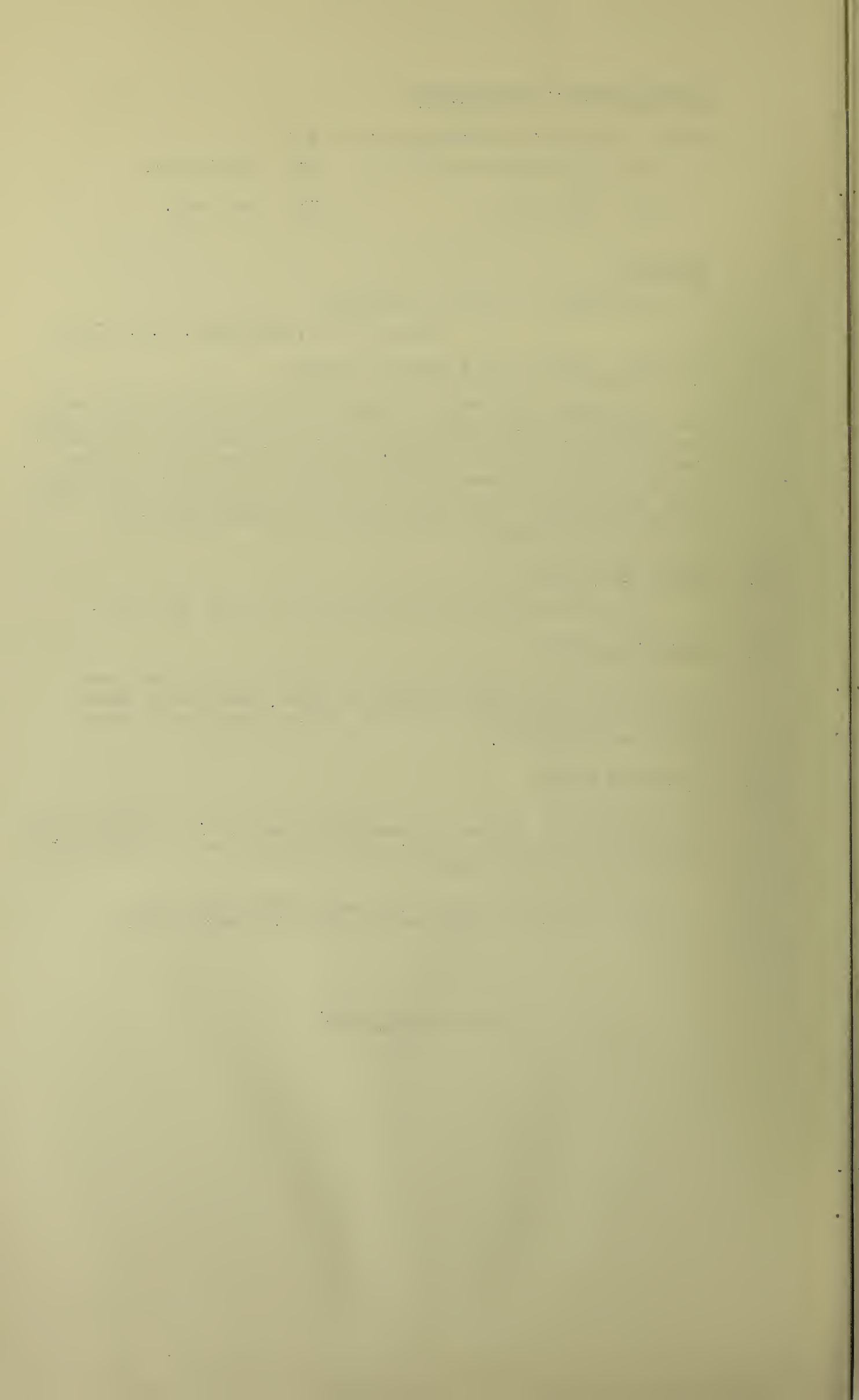
The open air swimming bath in the Droitwich Park was kept under supervision during the year. Samples of water taken for analysis at intervals in the summer were found to be satisfactory.

5. Refuse Disposal.

Disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping. The Council's Tip situated in Ombersley Road is in a satisfactory condition. The Tip was kept under supervision throughout the year by the Borough Surveyor.

Collections of refuse are made weekly from all premises and three times weekly from the large hotels.

End of Section "C"



SECTION "D" - HOUSING.

Towards the end of 1953 the Council decided to make Improvement Grants in suitable cases under the 1949 Housing Act. The following table shows the housing work carried out during the year :-

Number of new houses erected :-

- (1) By the Local Authority 16
- (2) By other Local Authorities Nil
- (3) By other bodies or persons 53

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :-

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) :- 183
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose :- 192
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 :- 65
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose :- 74
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation :- NIL
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation :- 163

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers :- 163

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

- (1) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-
 - (a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs NONE
 - (b) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :-
 - By owners NONE
 - By Local Authority in default of owners NONE

(2) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Notices were served requiring defects to be
remedied NONE.

(b) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were
remedied after service of formal Notices :-

By owners NONE.

By Local Authority in default of owners ... NONE.

(3) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing
Act 1936 :-

(a) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which
Demolition Orders were made 6

(b) Number of dwelling houses demolished in
pursuance of Demolition Orders 6

(4) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936 :-

(a) Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders
were made :- NONE.

(b) Number of separate tenements or underground
rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were
determined, the tenement or room having been
rendered fit :- NONE.

4. Housing Act 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding.

(1) (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the
end of the year NO FIGURES
AVAILABLE.

(b) Number of families dwelling therein ... "

(c) Number of persons dwelling therein ... "

(2) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported
during the year NONE.

(3) (a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved
during the year 2

(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases 6

(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after
being previously relieved NONE.

SECTION "E" - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This work again received attention during the year.
Routine inspection of premises where food is prepared, stored
and sold was carried out.

No licensed Slaughterhouses were in use in the town
during the year.

There are three manufacturers and thirty-five retailers
of Ice-Cream registered by the Local Authority under Section
14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. These premises were kept
under supervision during the year.

No cases of food poisoning were reported.

End of Section "E"

SECTION "F" - PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

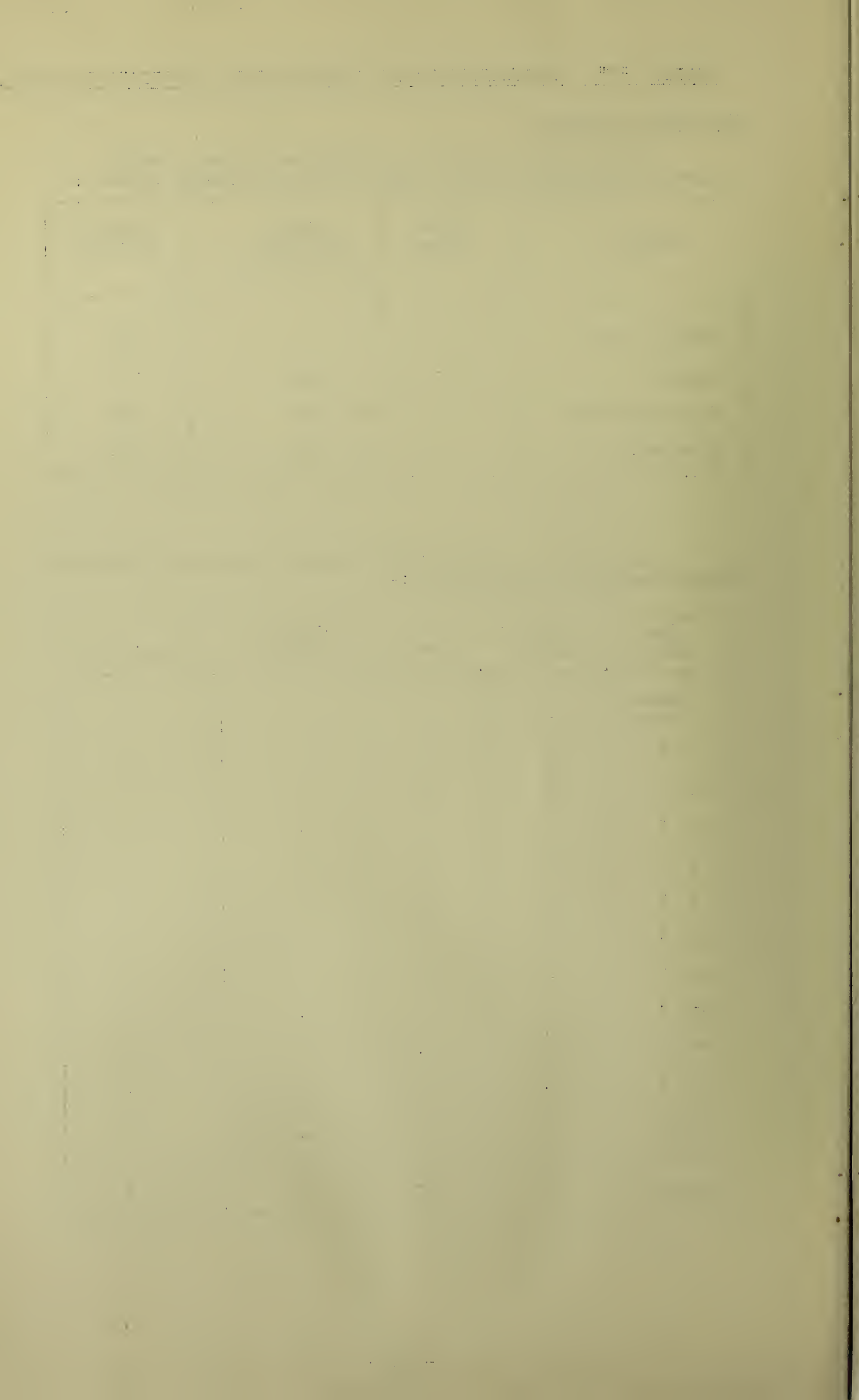
Notifiable Diseases.

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following tables :-

Disease.	Total Cases.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	4	3	Nil
Measles	70	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	2	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	1	Nil	Nil

An analysis of the total notified cases are tabulated below according to age groups :-

Age Group	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Erysipelas
Under 1 year	-	2	-	-
1 "	-	3	-	-
2 "	-	10	-	-
3 "	-	8	-	-
4 "	2	10	1	-
5 "	1	35	1	-
10 "	1	-	-	-
15 "	-	1	-	-
20 "	-	1	-	-
35 "	-	-	-	-
45 "	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	1
Totals	4	70	2	1



Tuberculosis.

Particulars of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis which occurred during the year are shown below :-

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory M.	Non-respiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Non-respiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Non-respiratory F.	Respiratory M.	Non-respiratory F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-
65 & over	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	3	2	-	-	1	3	-	-

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the end of December 1948, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953, are given below :-

	<u>Pulmonary cases.</u>		<u>Non-pulmonary cases.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
1948	17	8	2	4
1949	20	10	2	4
1950	22	13	2	4
1951	23	15	2	5
1952	23	18	1	4
1953	23	13	-	4

Meetings of the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee for South Worcestershire were held quarterly. This Committee endeavours to give extra help to needy tuberculous patients and their families.

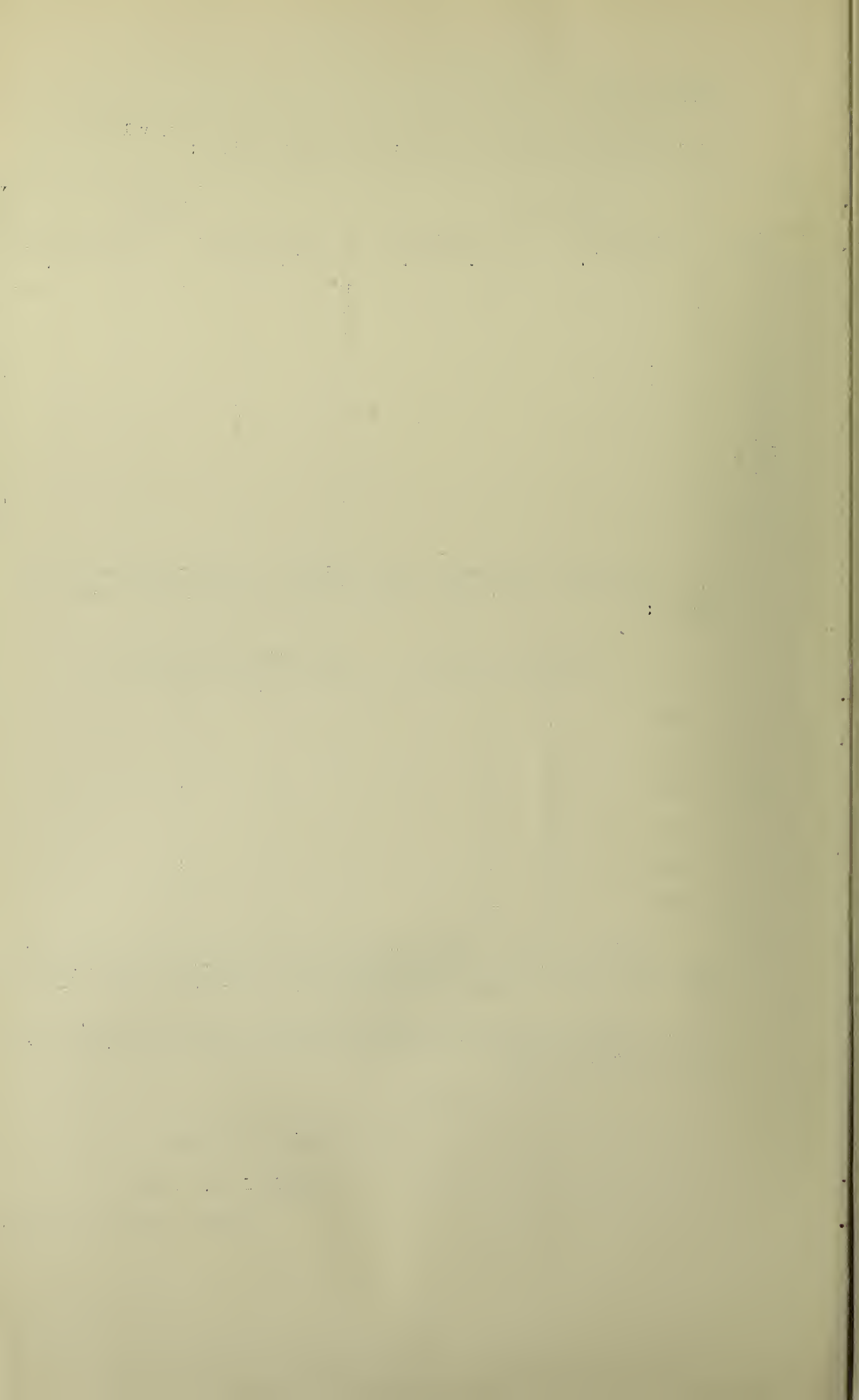
I wish to express my thanks to members of the Council, to the Town Clerk and other Officers for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

MARGARET C. FELL,

Medical Officer of Health.



TOWN HALL,
DROITWICH.

August, 1954.

To: The Chairman and Members of the
Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my ninth Annual Report reviewing the work of the Department during 1953. I would again like to thank your Council for continued support during the year and the Town Clerk, other officers and the staff of the Department for their ever ready assistance.

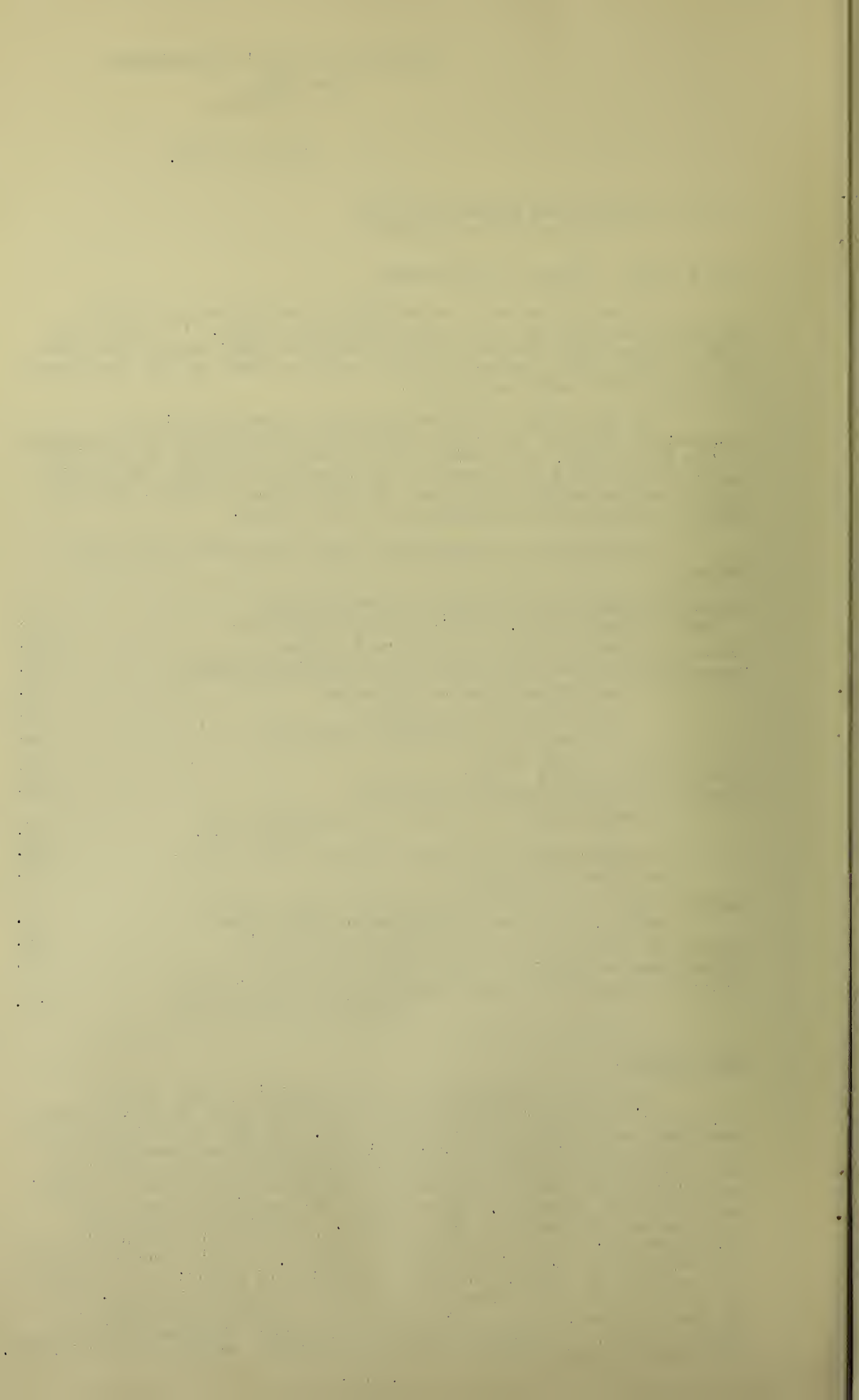
The year was an outstanding one in many ways; the Coronation, efforts to acquire the Brine Baths Park, the acquisition of the Drill Hall, the coming of two large factories to the town, negotiations for the renewal of the Agreement for the bulk water supply and preparation of plans for the Chawson Estate, were all matters receiving the attention of the Council.

A statement of inspections made during the year is as follows:-

Visits of inspection of works in progress at Stalls Farm and St.Peter's Crescent Estates.	235.
Visits to direct labour and contract works.	306.
Inspections of new buildings under Building Byelaws.	412.
" re maintenance of highways.	56.
" re public water supply.	18.
" re factories including bakehouses.	14.
Inspections of Food Shops.	28.
Visits to Council Houses re repairs.	128.
" re supervision of sewers, Sewage Works and Refuse Tip.	96.
" re supervision of Parks & Public Open Spaces.	122.
" re house scavenging.	36.
Samples taken for analysis including milk, sewage, water, ice cream and swimming bath water.	21.
Number of houses inspected for housing defects	183.
Miscellaneous visits not otherwise recorded.	110.
Visits of inspection for preparation of schemes for housing and other work.	231.

NEW HOUSING.

Due to the variation in the Council's policy at the St. Peter's Crescent Estate only 16 Council-owned dwellings were completed and occupied during the year. It will be recalled that the policy of building non-traditional houses was discontinued and a contract was let for the erection of 36 Gregory Flats each containing four rooms and the whole of this contract was nearing completion in December. These flats are serving a useful need and proving popular with the tenants. Preparations for 1954 programme were in hand at the end of the year which consisted of the building of 35 brick houses at the St. Peter's Crescent Estate to complete the Estate with the exception of shops; the erection of 12 houses in Vines Lane on part of the playground site, and a further 8 houses on the site of the Old Vicarage property in Friar Street. It was hoped that satisfactory tenders would be obtained and this programme of house building completed during 1954.



Although there was a marked decrease in the number of Council houses completed, there was a very welcome increase in the number of new private houses under construction. Houses under the block licence scheme proceeded and 16 were completed. 32 licences were issued for the erection of private dwellings and 37 were completed.

It is becoming apparent that development will continue along the Holloway Road at least as far as the junction with Tagwell Road in the comparatively near future, and this will reveal the great asset the town possesses in the central area of land owned by the Corporation which is to remain un-built upon.

The building sites offered for sale by the Council in Hanbury Road were quickly disposed of, all of the 16 sites having been sold by the end of the year. House building had commenced and the construction of the service road was begun.

With the acquisition of the New Witton Estate plans were being prepared for the development of the Estate by sale of individual plots for private house building.

The 14 houses for the Broadcasting Employees Housing Society were completed and occupied and negotiations were in progress for the formation of a Housing Society by Messrs. Deritend Precision Castings Company Limited to facilitate the erection of houses to be occupied by their employees.

HOUSING CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE BOROUGH AND APPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL HOUSES.

The housing circumstances within the Borough remain generally as during the previous year. Much of the old property is gradually deteriorating and as soon as the Government Slum Clearance Policy is required to be implemented a number of houses will be represented to the Council for demolition.

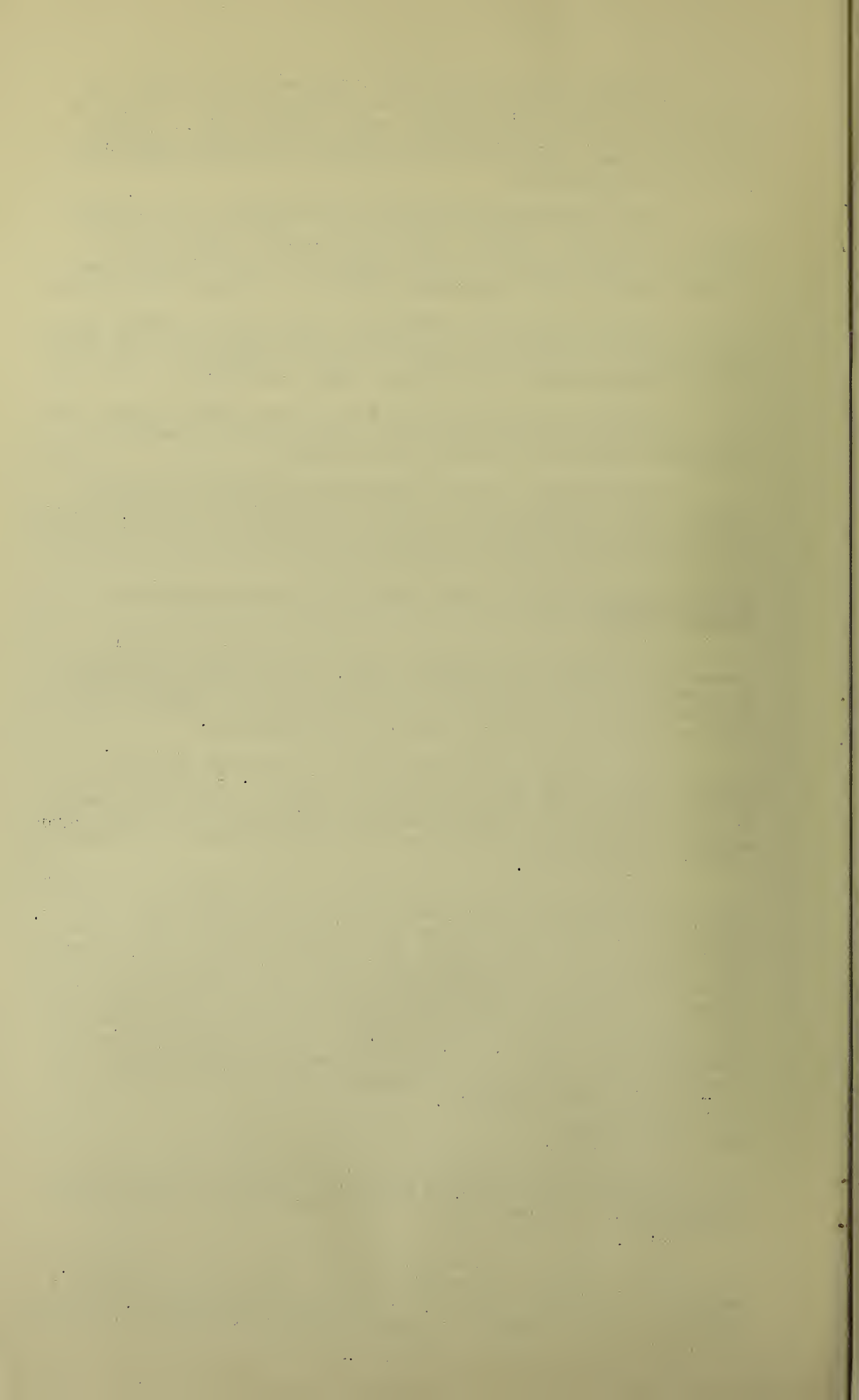
The number of applicants upon the waiting list for Council houses continued to increase slightly. It is apparent that the number of new applications coming in each year amounts to about 60, and the Council normally build about 50 houses per annum. The list of applications for Council houses is, therefore, gradually increasing.

The Council gave consideration to the question of grants under the Housing Act 1949, and at the close of the year had decided to review their policy decision not to make such grants. There are in some parts of the town particularly in the Newtown area a number of houses which could satisfactorily be re-conditioned under this scheme, and which unless they are re-conditioned will gradually deteriorate until the tenants have to be re-housed by the Council in Council houses and the property become sub-standard and eventually vacant, many low rented houses being lost to the community. The tenants of the Old Vicarage Cottages were re-housed during the year and arrangements were in hand for the demolition of the property.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Periodic inspections of food-stuffs have been carried out during the past year, and generally speaking an improvement in the hygienic circumstances of the food shops in the town is occurring.

The large ice cream factory in Vines Lane continued to manufacture ice cream to sell to a wide area of the country. I am glad to be able to report that the products of this factory continue to be maintained in a satisfactory condition. This firm also take regular samples for examination, in addition.



8 samples of ice cream and ice lollies were taken by the Local Authority during the year, These proved satisfactory.

The following statistics are submitted in connection with food premises in the Borough.

(a) Number of food premises total 58 made up as follows:-

Hotels	6
Cafes	11
Canteens	4
Grocers	24
Butchers	10
Fishmongers	<u>3</u>
	<u>58</u>

- (b) Number of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1938. 36
- Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. 2
- (c) Number of inspections made of food premises 42
- (d) Condemned food is collected and disposed of by the Local Authority.

SCAVENGING AND PUBLIC CLEANSING.

A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out, and this has been extended to cover a periodic collection from the whole of the premises within the Borough. Similarly pail closets at outlying premises are emptied weekly,

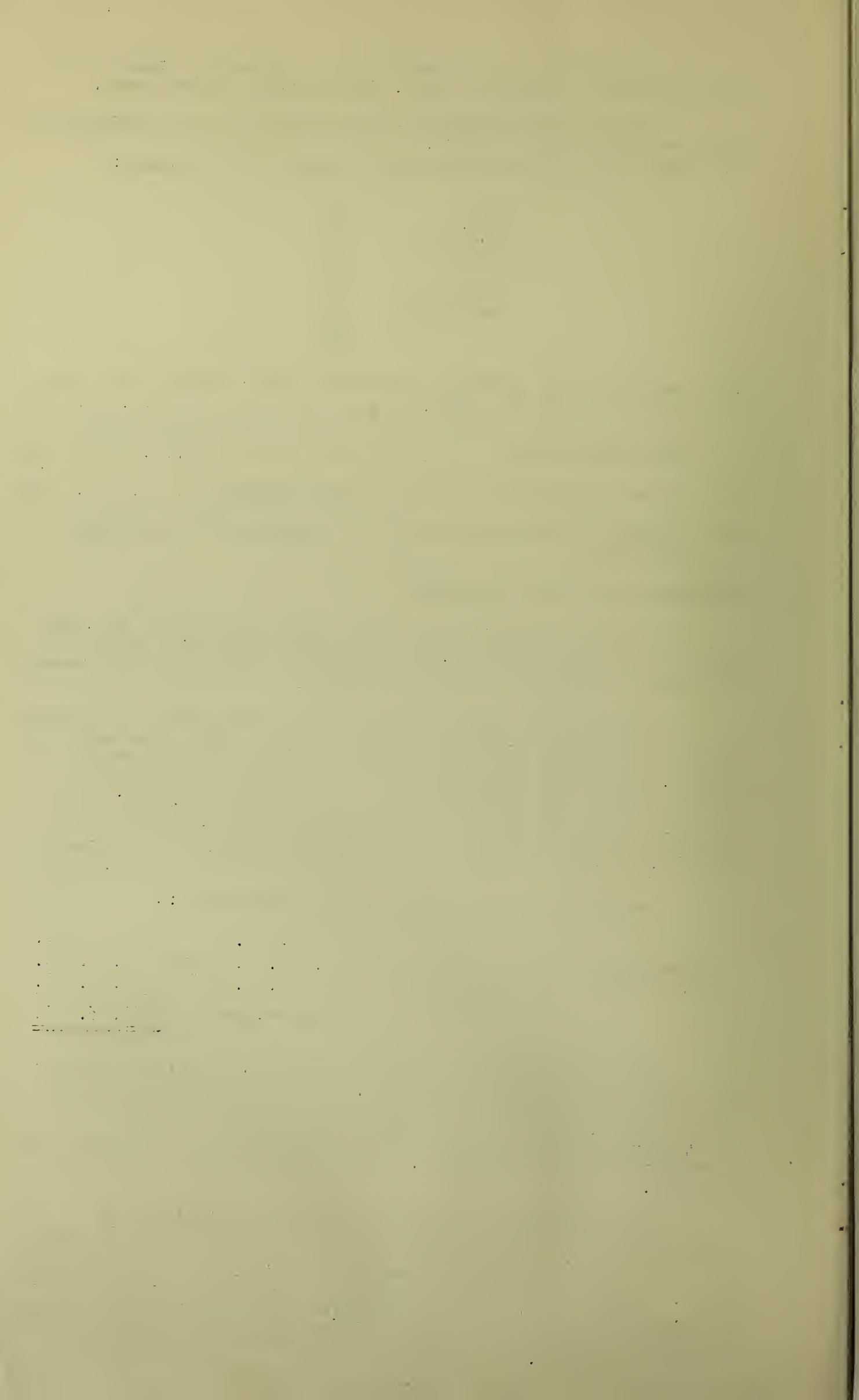
The new Fore and Aft Loader refuse collector has operated well during the year. The provision of this vehicle has made it possible for the whole of the refuse collected from private houses, hotels and other premises to be contained in the covered vehicle instead of being collected partly by open lorry. Furthermore the whole collection, including the hotels, is completed on the Friday leaving Saturday morning for the maintenance of the lorry; this allows for expansion of refuse collection with the coming into occupation of new houses.

Salvage collected amounts to the following:-

	T.	Q.	Q.	£	s	d.
Mixed Waste Paper	20.	19.	2.	value 144.	9.	9.
Scrap Iron	1.	16.	0.	"	7.	4. 0.
Total value				<u>£151.13.</u>	<u>9.</u>	

The three-monthly emptying of street gullies by contract has continued throughout the year. The street sweeping of the town centre has continued daily, and the remainder of the town on a weekly basis, except for the Witton area which was swept fortnightly. The question of street sweeping was receiving the consideration of the Council, but no decision upon it had been reached.

I am inclined to think that with the difficulty of obtaining street sweepers it might prove worthwhile to introduce a small electrically-propelled vehicle operated by a man on foot and with a team of sweepers travelling with it to cover the whole town. The present system of lengthsmen could thus be dispensed with. I think that this would expedite collection and also cause the work to be carried out more efficiently as all the men would be required to keep up with the vehicle and better supervision would be possible.



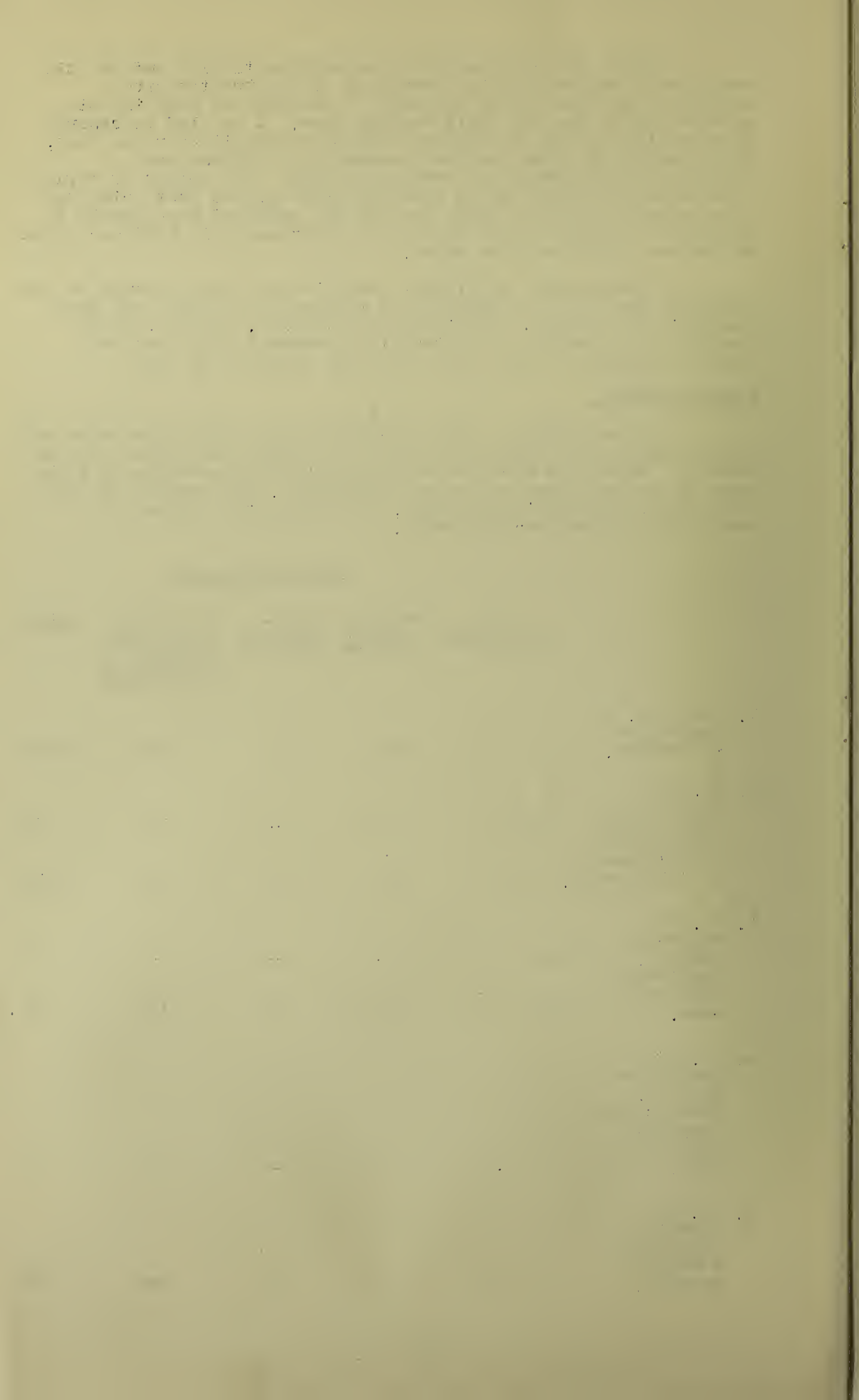
Refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping and the tip was greatly improved by the provision of the tractor with bulldozer and scoop which has made it possible to keep the tip covered except for the small working face. I am glad to report that the tip is now in a better condition than it ever has been, the nuisance of flies has been reduced to a minimum and infestation by rodents has been cleared up. The amount of refuse being brought to the tip is steadily growing, and just prior to the purchase of this tractor the two men employed were unable to handle it. By the use of the tractor approximately £150 per annum in disposal costs will be saved.

Unfortunately sufficient money has not been allowed in the estimates for it to be possible to remove all the top soil from the foot of the tip. Covering of the tip has, however, been possible as a number of constructional works in the town have caused a surplus of soil which has been taken to the tip.

RODENT CONTROL.

I append below a table indicating the inspections made and work carried out in connection with the control of rodents in the Borough. Much good work has been done in this connection and the town is now free from any major infestation. The refuse tip and river banks are practically free, and systematic control is carried out at regular intervals.

<u>Type of Property.</u>					
	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>Agri- cultural</u>	<u>All other (including Business & Industrial)</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Total No. of properties in Borough.	9	1763	11	185	1968
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of (a) notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) - (b) 9	16 927	- 11	10 65	26 1012
3. No. of properties under 2. found to be infested by rats.	Major 1 Minor 5	- 55	- 3	- 12	1 75
4. No. of properties under 2. found to be seriously infested by mice.	-	1	-	2	3
5. No. of infested properties 3 and 4 treated.	6	56	3	14	79



SAMPLING.

The following samples were taken for analysis during the year:-

Ice Cream	8
Swimming Pool Water	5
Town Water	1
Sewage Effluent	7
TOTAL	<u>21</u>

HIGHWAYS.

Little improvement in the public highways was carried out - they were, however, maintained in good order. New footpaths were constructed in The Ridgeway but your other footpath work under the programme formulated some years ago was suspended, it is hoped only temporarily, as there are still a number of footpaths in very poor condition in the town.

At the close of the year permission was obtained from the Ministry of Transport to prepare a scheme for the improvement of Tagwell Road and Newland Road, and work was progressing upon this scheme for which tenders were expected to be invited in the early spring. The original scheme had to be much reduced both in road width and, on some sections, the existing carriageway must remain, the only improvement being to the sight lines.

The footpath in St. Peter's Walk was concreted and a much needed improvement thereby carried out.

Your policy of tree planting was not continued.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

A number of sewers became blocked and were cleared, and several lengths of sewer scraped. A very considerable amount of sediment was found in them. The attention of the Council was called to the fact that many of the sewers in the town required dredging and cleansing, defective manhole covers replacing and manhole repairs carried out. The Council felt that in the financial circumstances of the town such a programme of maintenance could not be embarked upon. This is to be regretted as a serious and expensive blockage may well occur at any time in the future.

The sewage disposal works have been maintained in as good a condition as is possible, bearing in mind that the plant is overloaded. Generally speaking the samples of effluent have been found on examination to be slightly below the standard recommended by the Royal Commission.

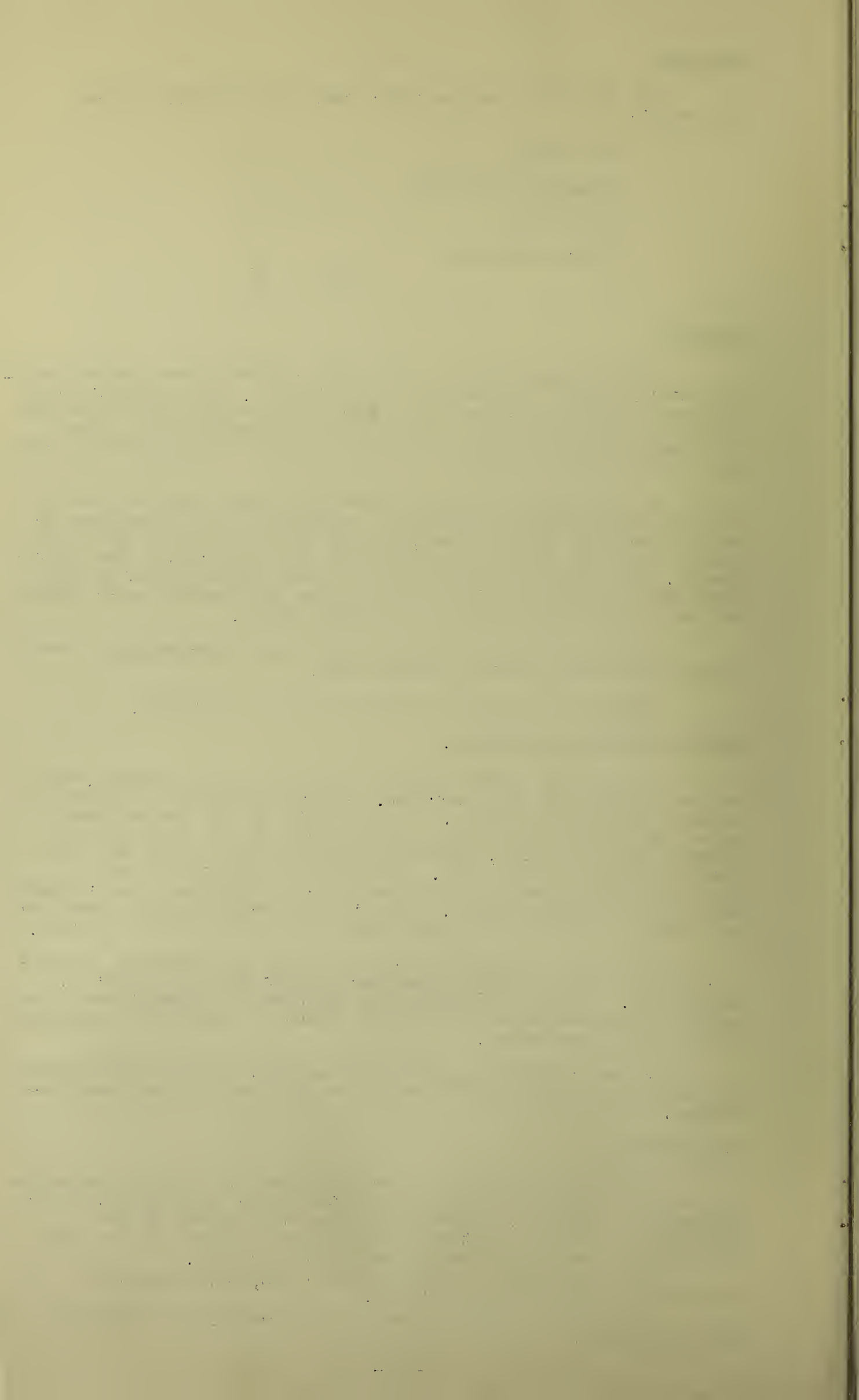
A sewer extension of 18 yards was made along Corbett Avenue and 180 yards along Tagwell Road to receive connections from new houses.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water continues to be purchased from the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company in bulk and is satisfactory in regard to both quantity and quality. Negotiations for the renewal of the purchasing agreement continued throughout the whole of the year and were not concluded when preparing this report.

The consumption during 1953 was 103,992,000 gallons averaging 284,910 gallons per day.

870 taps and 484 ball valves were washered or adjusted free of charge.



PARKS AND OPEN SPACES.

These areas have been maintained in as good a condition as is possible bearing in mind the limited amount of labour available for the work. The Vines Park Bowling Green was opened during the year and it seems well on the way to becoming a first-class green.

The use of the King George Playing Field continues to grow yearly and an extension of the field to Ombersley Road is absolutely vital to prevent the existing field deteriorating markedly because of its over-worked condition.

DROITWICH CANAL.

Little further progress in this scheme was made. An investigation was carried out into the possibility of discharging the effluent from the Brine Baths back into the salt stream. It was considered, however, that the risk of re-commencing the settlement of buildings in Droitwich by such a practice was too great to warrant such a proposal, thus the proposal reverted to the original scheme for the use of part of the canal as a balancing tank.

FACTORY DEVELOPMENT.

The field known as Bays Meadow off Vines Lane which the Council had held for some years for factory development was leased to Messrs. Deritend Precision Castings Limited who have constructed an attractive factory upon it, your Council building the entrance road to the factory and extending the sewers.

A small factory on land owned by the Council in Hampton Road was also commenced by Messrs. Concrete Products Limited.

Further Messrs. Tropicalisation and Packing Company Limited acquired land in Hampton Road where they are constructing a considerable factory.

DRILL HALL.

The Council acquired these premises during the year and are now giving consideration to their future use.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON.

Chartered Municipal Engineer.
Borough Engineer Surveyor and
Sanitary Inspector.

